



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference Hi-bu 033039wo	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US 03/16296	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.05.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 10.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H01R13/518		
Applicant 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 31.01.2004	Date of completion of this report 07.04.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Arenz, R Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8177 	

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-15 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-19 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The following documents are cited in the International Search Report:

D1: US-A-5 676 569 (DAVIS WAYNE SAMUEL) 14 October 1997 (1997-10-14)
D2: US-A-5 895 292 (AFFELTRANGER WALTER) 20 April 1999 (1999-04-20)
D3: EP-A-0 831 559 (SIEMENS AG) 25 March 1998 (1998-03-25)
D4: WO 99 63628 A (ADC TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC) 9 December 1999
(1999-12-09)
D5: DE 27 36 079 A (AIR LB GMBH) 22 February 1979 (1979-02-22)

- a. Document D1 cited as "X"-reference in the ISR does not concern a multiple wire cable connector as defined by the subject-matter of claim 1.

The connector disclosed in D1 is not provided with "...an outer housing having at least one opening for a multiple wire cable to pass therethrough..." (cf. Fig.3; col. 2, lines 18-26; see solder tails 54) and does further not comprise any "...cover for covering the receiving end of the inner housing(s), wherein the covercomprises electrically conductive material....".

- b. The remaining documents D2-D5 cited in the ISR do not come closer.

2. **In view of the available prior art cited in the International Search Report it appears** that the subject-matter of claim 1 is new and involves an inventive step in the sense of article 33(3) PCT.

- a. Document EP-A-0 952 637, cited in the application, appears to represent the most relevant state of the art.
- b. EP-A-0 952 637 discloses (cf. Fig. 2,3) a multiple wire cable connector from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that a "...cover for covering the receiving end of the inner housing(s), wherein the covercomprises electrically conductive material..." is provided according to the invention.

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- c. The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as improve the electromagnetic shield.
- d. The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application appears as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT), since none of the available prior art documents cited in the International Search Report disclose or suggest a "...cover for covering the receiving ends of the inner housing...".
- 3. The claims 2-19 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.
- 4. The invention as claimed in claims 1-19 is industrially applicable (Article 33(4) PCT).